

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A trim member for an automotive vehicle, comprising:
a main body portion that is formed of a hard resin material;
an air bag door portion, wherein:
the air bag door portion is formed of a same hard resin material as the
main body portion,
the air bag door portion is integrally formed with the main body
portion;
a tear portion is formed in the air bag door portion, and; and
a hinge portion is formed in the air bag door portion as a thin portion
having a predetermined thickness across a predetermined longitudinal width and is adjacent
to a case mounting portion; and
a door hinge portion protecting plate disposed below and separate from the air bag door portion, protruding toward a side of the tear portion rather than toward ~~the~~ a hinge portion of the air bag door portion and having a high break force, wherein a predetermined spacing is provided between the door hinge portion protecting plate and a lower surface of the air bag door portion.

2. (Currently Amended) A trim member for an automotive vehicle, comprising:
a main body portion that is formed of a hard resin material;
an air bag door portion, wherein;
the air bag door portion is formed of a same hard resin material as the
main body portion,

the air bag door portion is integrally formed with the main body portion,

a tear portion is formed in the air bag door portion which is not visible from an outer appearance with a part of the tear portion located at the center of the air bag door portion, and

a hinge portion is formed in the air bag door portion as a thin portion have a predetermined thickness across a predetermined longitudinal width and is adjacent to a case mounting portion; and

force concentrating means, at least one of the force concentrating means positioned below and separate from the air bag door portion and adjacent to a lower surface side of the air bag door portion, for pushing up at least one side of the air bag door portion located on either side of the part of the tear portion located at the center of the air bag door portion when ~~the~~ a bag body of ~~the~~ an air bag is expanded, wherein a predetermined spacing is provided between the force concentrating means and a lower surface of the air bag door portion.

3. (Currently Amended) The trim member for an automotive vehicle according to claim 2, wherein ~~said the~~ the force concentrating means is disposed at ~~a the~~ the lower surface side of ~~said the~~ the air bag door portion, and is a metal plate providing a protrusion on at least one of an upper surface or a lower surface of a distal end portion that abuts, when the air bag body is expanded, at least one side of the air bag door portion located on either side of the part of the tear portion located at the center of the air bag door portion.

4. (Currently Amended) The trim member for an automotive vehicle according to claim 2, wherein ~~said the~~ the force concentrating means is disposed at ~~a the~~ the lower surface side of ~~said the~~ the air bag door portion and is a metal plate providing a narrow protrusion at an upper surface of a distal end portion that abuts, when the air bag body is expanded, at least one side

of the air bag door portion located on either side of the part of the tear portion located at the center of the air bag door portion when the air body of the air bag is expanded.

5. (Currently Amended) The trim member for an automotive vehicle according to claim 2, wherein;

~~said the~~ force concentrating means is disposed at a ~~the~~ lower surface side of ~~said the~~ air bag door portion and is a metal plate providing a distal end portion that abuts, when the air bag body is expanded, at least one side of the air bag door portion located on either side of the part of the tear portion located at the center of the air bag door portion;

a hinge portion of ~~said the~~ metal plate is off set with respect to ~~said the~~ tear portion more than the hinge portion of said air bag door portion; and

a portion of the metal plate between the hinge portion and an end opposite the distal end has more rigidity than the hinge portion.